Arrogant Kiss

Story 2

BY NAGANO MEI

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その恋オススメできません
A LOVE THAT CANNOT BE RECOMMENDED

TSUZUKI MASAHIRO AND I MET TWO YEARS AGO AT THE SAME COMPANY.
MASAHIRO
NATSUKI
LET'S BREAK UP,
SORRY THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE I LOVE
WAS A COMPLETE SHOCK.
BEING DUMPED BY HIM SO SUDDENLY...
HALF A YEAR LATER,
HE'S GETTING MARRIED TO HIS NEW GIRLFRIEND.
BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT IT TO GET OUT THAT WE WERE DATING, WE ALWAYS TREATED EACH OTHER LIKE COLLEAGUES AT WORK.
I HEAR HIS WIFE AYAKA WENT TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS HIM.
'ZAT SO.

GETTING MARRIED ONLY HALF A YEAR AFTER HE DUMPED ME...
HUMAN HEARTS SURE ARE FICKLE...
I... shouldn't have come...
I don't want to see their shining faces...
NATSUKI, ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
DO YOU WORK AT MASAHIRO'S COMPANY?
Oh, are you okay?
My stomach hurts a little
WHY DON'T WE MEET AGAIN SOME TIME?
That's right!
ARE YOU FRIENDS OF THE BRIDE?
AH, THERE THEY GO AT ONDA AGAIN
SURE WHY NOT?
You bet
POPULAR GUYS ARE POPULAR EVERYWHERE I GUESS
THAT REMINDS ME APPARENTLY, ONDA IS THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED THE NEWLYWEDS
WHAT?
INTRODUCED? HE INTRODUCED THEM?
So it's that jerk's fault
We should go find some hottie to flirt with too.
CHATTER
CHATTER

ONDA NAOKI (25)
MASAHIRO'S UNIVERSITY UNDERCLASSMAN.
BECAUSE HE'S GAINFULLY EMPLOYED AND HANDSOME, HE'S VERY POPULAR.
THERE ARE LOTS OF RUMORS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN, TOO.
I'VE EVEN SEEN HIM WITH ONE OF THE WOMEN FROM MANAGEMENT.
会議室
SFX: YOINK, SIGH MEETING ROOM
Woah
She's crying
I'M NOT FRIKKIN' JEALOUS AT ALL, BARTENDER!
UH... WHATEVER YOU SAY...
I haven't let it slow me down in looking for love one frikkin' bit!
I think you've had too much to drink, ma'am.
HIC
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
I BET A GUY LIKE THAT...
WOULDN'T EVEN LET BEING DUMPED SLOW HIM DOWN...
VELVET
VELVET

WEL-COME!
HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY I DON'T EVEN WANT NEAR ME
SFX: CREAK
O, ONDA
IGAWA!
HEH... WEREN'T YOU GONNA GO "MEET AGAIN SOME TIME"?
It's this jerk's fault
I ALREADY DID. AND?
Just stopped by here after
YOU LOOK DRUNK, ONDA
YOU TOO
Ha ha ha!
GO AWAY!
WHISKY PLEASE
FLINCH
THUD
HEY...
I don't want company right now

IGAWA
HE TOSSED YOU ASIDE PRETTY QUICK, TSUZUKI, I MEAN HUH?
He told me you were dating...
SFX: C-ACK
TODAY'S MARRIAGE IS ALL YOUR FAULT
TOT!
WH, WH, WH
THIS BAS-TARD!!
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE SAYING!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED HIM TO HER, DAMNIT!
INTRODUCED HER?! HE WAS MY UPPER-CLASSMAN! OF COURSE I'D TAKE HIM ALONG WHEN I WENT DRINKING WITH MY UNI-VERSITY FRIENDS!
You think I did so for that purpose?!
SO WHAT IF AYAKA WAS THERE?!
It was a coinci-dence!
Let's calm down, please!!

WELL...
I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HE'D CHOOSE AYAKA OVER YOU, ANYWAY...
FWOOOSH
BOOOOOM
I feel bad, but.
BAHAAAAAM
ONDA, D'YOU GOT SOME KINDA PROBLEM WITH ME?!
I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE THE REASON HE
UH...
SORRY!
TOSS
TOSS
Finish this outside.
YOU WERE DUMPED BY AYAKA, WEREN'T YOU, ONDA?!
DING
STAGGER
AH. OF course
FLINCH
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE PISSED AT ME, RIGHT?!

IT WAS UNREQUITED LOVE!
YOU'RE WRONG!
We're compatriots!
YOU'RE IN COMPLETELY THE SAME BOAT AS ME!
WHAT?!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY CLAIM TO HER IN THE FIRST PLACE!
SIGH
IN OTHER WORDS
I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFESS TO HER, RIGHT?
Total loser
THEN...
UNREQUITED?
SO DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH LOSERS LIKE YOU
TWITCH
LIKE YOU CAN TALK! YOU WERE THROWN COMPLETELY ASIDE!
WH,
WHAT WAS THAT?!
LIMP...
YOU LIMP-DICK!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
Weakling Loser!
Graaargh!

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
BLINK
BLINK
CHIRP
CHIRP
AAAAAH!
"Aaaah!!"?
Why "Ahhh"?!

AH. IF HE SAYS IT WAS UNREQUITED LOVE,
MAYBE ALL THOSE OTHER WOMEN KEEP CHOOSING HIM...
FILE ROOM
I... TOTALLY DID IT WITH ONDA.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE HIM...
At least I don't remember it.
Ugh...
WHATEVER. LET'S JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.
BUT STILL.
I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT SOMEONE LIKE HIM COULD EXPERIENCE UNREQUITED LOVE.
THAT DOESN'T MATCH THE RUMORS AT ALL...
ANYWAY, IF HE'S A GUY, I DOUBT HE HAS A PROBLEM-WITH IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE OTHERWISE.
Hup!
MUMBLE
THAT LOSER.

WHO
RUSTLE
IS A LOSER?
TAP
AH, ONDA.
HOW COLD
AND YOU WERE SO CUTE JUST THE OTHER NIGHT.
BLUSH
AH, WELL...
I DON'T NECESSARILY MEAN YOU
I mean, I think you are one But wouldn't say it
You're a little too close

STOP SAYING THINGS THAT BENEFIT YOURSELF...
GLARE
DON'T GET CLOSE TO ME!
I don't need men
I DON'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING SORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR SHOUTING AT YOU THAT NIGHT BUT AT LEAST BECAUSE OF THAT, WE—
WELL, ABOUT THAT UH...
BUT PLEASE, FORGET ABOUT IT...
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT
YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD THINK OF IT AS JUST A MIS-UNDERSTANDING?

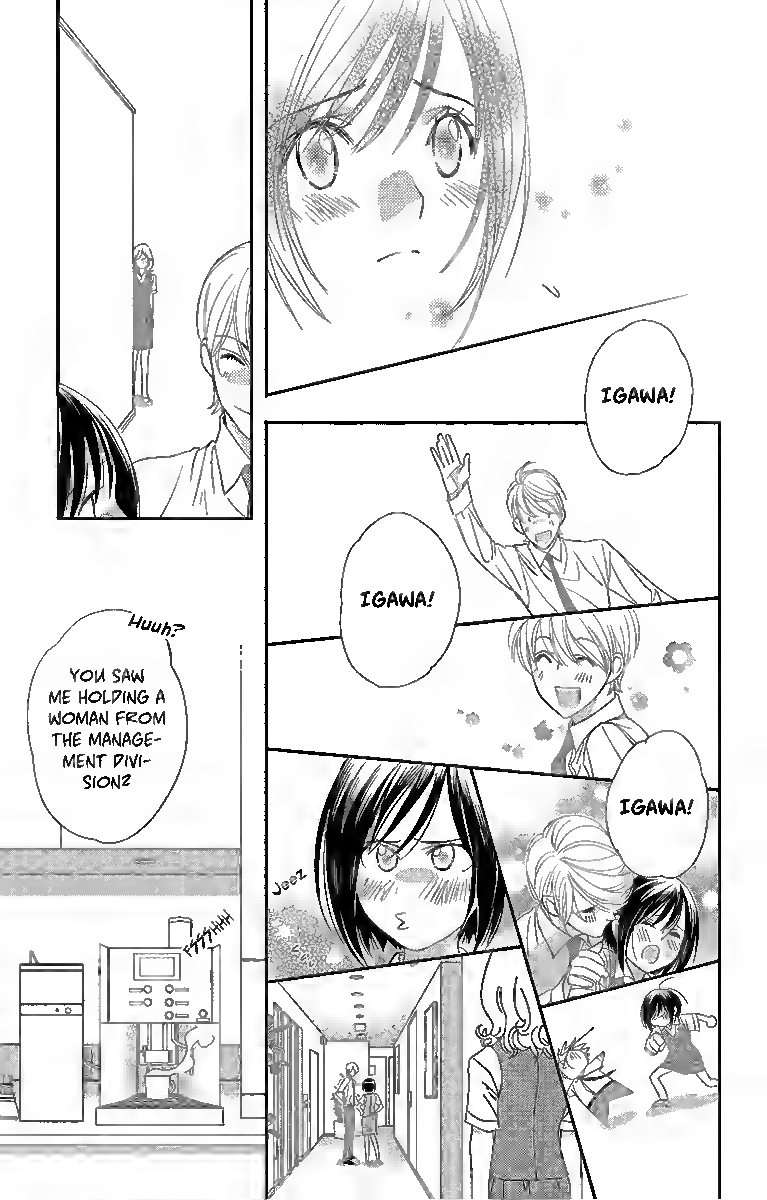
SQUEEZE
HEY!
ONDA!
WHAT ARE...
SHHH. SHHHH!
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU, IGAWA
SOMETHING YOU SHOULD REALLY HEAR
WH... WHAT?!
NO! DON'T GET SO CLOSE TO MY EAR!
THE TRUTH IS...
IGAWA
WHAT IS IT, ALREADY?
I REALIZED THIS THE OTHER NIGHT IT'S...

THAT YOUR EAR IS REALLY, REALLY SENSITIVE
Ahh!
What the hell are you doing...!
You jerk?!

THE OTHER NIGHT,
I FELL FOR YOU, IGAWA
COM-PLETELY

PLEASE,
GO OUT WITH ME
I'D LIKE TO BE WITH YOU, IGAWA,
IF YOU CAN ACCEPT ME
ONDA, THAT JOKE IS...
Not a joke. Huh...?
THANK YOU...

BRUSH
DON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE
I UNDER-STAND
I
BUT SORRY
YOU DON'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ANYBODY BUT HIM, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T RETURN MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW, IGAWA,
I'LL WAIT
MY FEELINGS AREN'T SHORT-LIVED

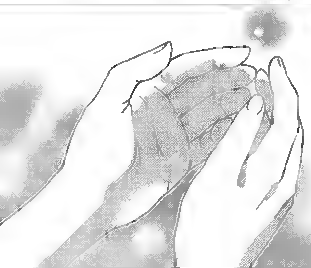

IGAWA!
IGAWA!
IGAWA!
Jeez
Huuh?
YOU SAW ME HOLDING A WOMAN FROM THE MANAGE-MENT DIVI-SION2
FFFZHHH

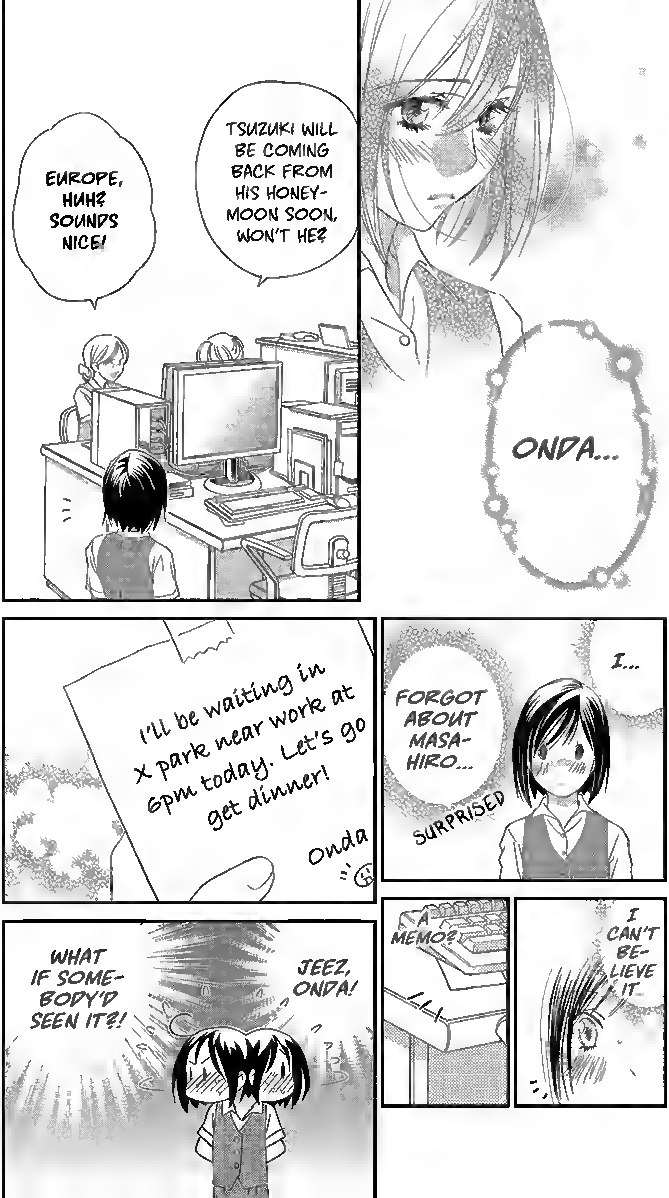
WHAT?
ONDA,
YEAH...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WOMAN WHO WAS ASKING ME FOR RELATIONSHIP ADVICE, HUH?
HER BOYFRIEND CAN'T BE A GOOD GUY
MAKING HER CRY LIKE THAT...
WHY...
WAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH AYAKA UNREQUITED?
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
He's a nice guy
I MEAN, YOU WERE PLENTY ASSERTIVE WITH ME...

AYAKA SAID SHE VIEWED ME MORE LIKE A BROTHER
WHEN SHE SAID THAT, I LOST MY NERVE COMPLETELY I MEAN
TOCK
I GUESS THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE
THIS TIME,
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO END THE SAME WAY
I'M THINKING ABOUT WHAT I DID WRONG WITH MY LAST LOVE
IN ORDER TO CONVEY MY FEELINGS TO YOU PROPERLY, IGAWA,

TO USE THE FORMER LOVE...

TO GUIDE YOUR NEW ONE...




TSUZUKI WILL BE COMING BACK FROM HIS HONEY-MOON SOON, WON'T HE?
EUROPE, HUH? SOUNDS NICE!
ONDA...
I'll be waiting in X park near work at 6pm today. Let's go get dinner!
Onda
I...
FORGOT ABOUT MASA-HIRO...
SURPRISED
A MEMO?
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT...
JEEZ, ONDA!
WHAT IF SOME-BODY'D SEEN IT?!

ONDA...
I'LL ACCEPT YOUR FEELINGS.
I BET HE'LL BE PLEASED.
YAY!
LIKE THAT.
I WAS ABLE TO MEET SOMEONE NEW
I'M HAPPY.
THAT'S ONDA.
ISN'T THAT THE WOMAN HE WAS TALKING TO BEFORE THAT ONE TIME...?

WHAT?
IGA—
GRAB
YANK
GASP

WE'RE DATING!
HE'S ALREADY MINE,
SO YOU CAN FORGET IT!
SNATCH
IGAWA, NO!
PLEASE, LISTEN!

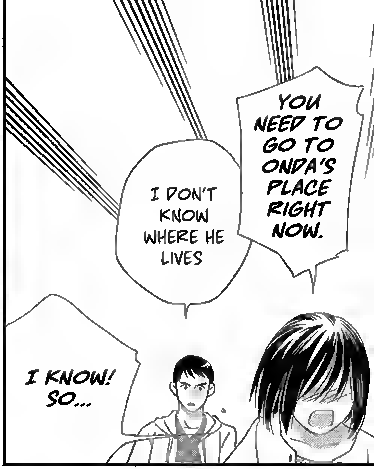
SHE CONFESSED TO ME JUST NOW.
I TURNED HER DOWN.
SHE SUD-DENLY KISSED ME.
I WOULD NEVER...!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. I CAN'T!
THERE'S SOME-ONE ELSE I LOVE
LET'S BREAK UP.
I NEVER WANT TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN.
IGAWA!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, SEEING YOU LIKE THAT!
I SEE
ONDA, THERE ARE SO MANY RUMORS ABOUT YOU.
I'M SURE IF I BELIEVED YOU, I'D END UP GETTING HURT.

SO THAT'S... HOW YOU SEE ME, HUH?
ONDA...
IN THAT CASE, IT'S DEFINITELY IMPOS-SIBLE
VVVVVV
HELLO?
What?
AYAKA?!
IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?!

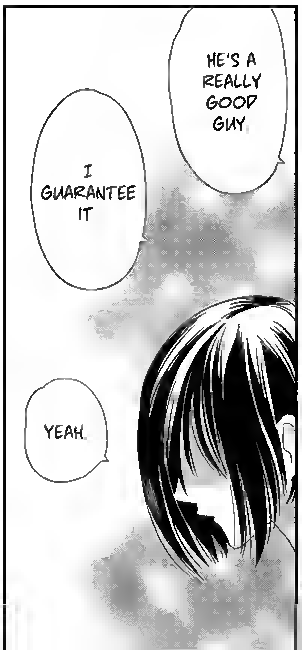
I...
SORRY
I HAVE TO GO
SNAP
MA... MASA-HIRO?!
NATSUKI!

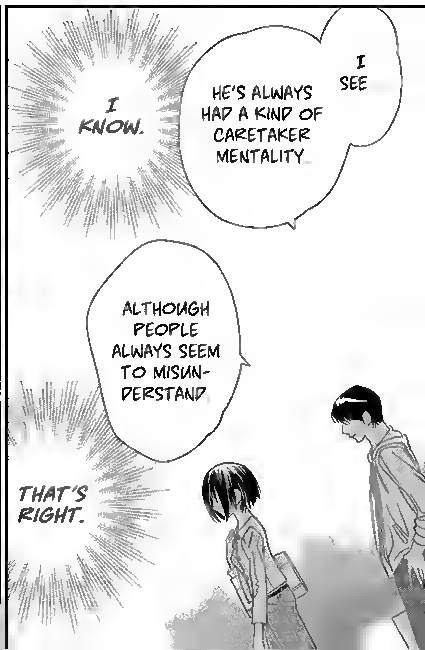
SHE KEPT SAYING STUFF LIKE, "IF ONDA WERE HERE, HE'D UNDERSTAND HOW I FELT!"
SO I SAID...
"THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO TO HIM?!"
HUH? YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM YOUR HONEY-MOON?!
UH... HOW'S AYAKA?
WE GOT INTO A HUGE FIGHT ON THE WAY BACK
THEN, THAT EARLIER PHONE CALL...
SO WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WELL, I THOUGHT ONDA WOULD STILL BE AT WORK
SO I WAS GOING TO HAND OUT SOUVENIRS
Gaaaah
He's going to do that now?!
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
He gets under my skin so easily
WAIT. WHAT AM I DOING?

WHY HUH? DO YOU KNOW?
UHHH-HHH...


YOU NEED TO GO TO ONDA'S PLACE RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE LIVES
I KNOW! SO...

!


HE'S A REALLY GOOD GUY
I GUARANTEE IT
YEAH.


I KNOW.
I SEE
HE'S ALWAYS HAD A KIND OF CARETAKER MENTALITY
ALTHOUGH PEOPLE ALWAYS SEEM TO MISUN-DERSTAND
THAT'S RIGHT.

I KNEW HE WAS LIKE THAT. BUT...!
I'M SORRY, ONDA.
HOW CAN I APOLO-GISE?
AYAKA!
CLICK
ONDA...
ONDA. AYAKA.
WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

SFX GRAB
WHY WERE YOU WITH HIM?
WHAT?

ONDA...
HUG
Good luck!
SEE YOU LATER!
Click
SORRY
You jerk!
JEEZ! YOU'RE SO SLOW!
WE MET BY CHANCE THAT'S ALL
OR SHOULD I BE ASKING YOU THAT?
You're still going around with him?
NOTH-ING HAPPENED OKAY?
I KNOW

I'M SORRY...
THAT I SAID THAT...
I SHOULD HAVE TRIED HARDER TO STOP HER
WELL, I TOLD HER "WAIT," BUT...
SORRY.
I...
LIKE YOU, ONDA.
IGAWA
REALLY?
EVEN THOUGH
THAT MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN?
That sort of stuff happens all the time.

I KNOW
I'LL RE-MEMBER
I'M GOING...
TO TREAT THIS LOVE...
SO PRE-CIOUSLY.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL BE OKAY.

DO YOU REALLY NOT REMEMBER A THING THAT HAPPENED?
Y... YEAH
SORRY
THAT NIGHT,
YOU WERE SO, SO CUTE, IGAWA
JUST LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW

〈その恋オススメできません〉＊おわり＊プチコミック2010年4月号特別ふろくに掲載